

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. SCHROEDER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1655. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1655) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KYL, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. MACK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. KERREY, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. NUNN to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 11, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: I am writing to inform you that I will be resigning my position as the Member of Congress from the 15th Congressional District of California. The effective resignation date will be October 10, 1995.

Sincerely,

NORMAN Y. MINETA,
Member of Congress.

DEMOCRATS' DANCING ON MEDICARE PLAN

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have detailed their own

Medicare plan, best referred to as the Fred Astaire of Medicare. Light on its feet and even lighter on its details, the Democrats' plan dances around the hard decisions of the Medicare crisis in search of easy, look-good answers.

It promises the seniors everything, everything except a Medicare system, because under the Democrats' plan, Medicare won't be around for the people who are 56 years old today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to unlace those dancing shoes—don't give seniors the song and dance, then leave them to pay the band. Work with us to do what's right—let's save Medicare for the next generation, not just through the next election cycle.

MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, there are two competing points of view regarding the future of Medicare; those that want to save the system and those that want to stand on the sidelines and try to scare as many seniors as possible.

For those of us committed to saving Medicare, our best weapon is a commodity that isn't always put to use in Washington: the truth. Despite what the other side continues to claim, the truth is, we're not cutting Medicare; Medicare spending increases under the Medicare Preservation Act.

The defining feature of our proposal is choice; seniors will now have the ability to choose from a range of health care options, from the fee-for-service approach of the traditional Medicare program to managed care options and medical savings accounts.

The most important truth that everyone must know is that Medicare faces imminent collapse in 7 years unless we act. We are offering a plan that increases Medicare spending, preserves the solvency of the system, and gives seniors new choices to better meet their health care needs.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop the rhetorical warfare they are engaging in and work with us to preserve and protect Medicare.

DEMOCRATS CANNOT ADD

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, it seems Goals 2000 bureaucrats have changed the way we teach addition and subtraction. If not, then how can the political operatives of the Democratic National Committee call a \$1,900 increase a cut? It's really quite simple. Either they can't add, or scaring senior citizens with imaginary Medicare cuts is the only way they believe Democrats can regain control of Congress.

While the Republican majority diligently works to save Medicare, the paid political hands at the DNC have launched a Medicare campaign that suggests that Republicans are cutting Medicare, even though our plan increases spending per Medicare beneficiary from \$4,800 this year to \$6,700 in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, scare tactics and fear mongering will not save Medicare. It's time for the minority party to fire their political advisors and join our efforts to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare. The American people want leadership from their Representatives in Congress—not cynical 30-second political ads.

THE REAL REPUBLICAN PLAN TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, among the many myths that Democrats are perpetuating about the GOP plan to save Medicare, the biggest is that the Republicans want to cut Medicare. This is simply not the case. The Republican plan actually increases individual benefits from an annual \$4,800 to \$6,700 by the year 2002, and increases Medicare spending from \$161 billion this year to \$274 billion.

Two years ago it was explained to Congress that today, and I quote, "Today Medicaid and Medicare are going up three times the rate of inflation. We propose to let it go up at two times the rate of inflation. This is not a cut."

This quote is not from a Republican. This is from the President, President Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage both sides of the aisle to negotiate this and come together. Members should recognize that Medicare needs to be improved and saved.

You see, Mr. Speaker, at least some Democrats understand basic mathematics. At least some of them know that their wild claims about Republican efforts to save Medicare are false. Democrats, instead of scaring people, should roll up their sleeves to preserve and strengthen Medicare.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO OFFER AMENDMENT IN LIEU OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 436, EDIBLE OIL REGULATORY REFORM ACT

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 436, Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act, on